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Don't be late for
Easter services!

Daylight Savings Time
begins April 4.

Remember to set clocks
forward by one hour.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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Human needs ministry shares hope, Gospel

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — *Honduras:* Umberto Mayan picks through the mud looking for anything he can salvage from a 35-year-old business that's been destroyed. At least he has the building. A raging river swept away his house.

Dominican Republic: Everything Yolanda Abrea owns is soaked. When the wind blew the tin from her roof, it left all her belongings unprotected. She thanks God that everyone in her family survived the 120-plus mph winds.

Bangladesh: Thousands of families crowd the embankment of an elevated dirt road cutting across endless miles of water. Floods have destroyed millions of homes and the road is the only dry refuge.

The list goes on: earthquake victims dig out in Bolivia; war refugees fight for survival in Bosnia; at least five countries in South America experienced severe flooding due to months of El Nino rain; drought in West Africa is causing famine.

In the midst of these tragedies, Southern Baptists and their International Mission Board (IMB) representatives stand as a beacon of hope.

They follow the example and teaching of Jesus by presenting the hope of the gospel as they minister to human needs.

"Ministry and evangelism are not one and the same, but to separate the two is biblically abnor-

mal. I think our Lord is the example of balance in Luke 10:9. The Christian minister is also an evangelist," said Bill Cashion, director of the IMB volunteers in missions department.

John Cheyne, longtime Africa missionary and developer of the IMB human needs department, agreed.

"Meeting human needs is not a means to an end but is a part of our total concern for a lost world," he said, "but we should be overt in our witness. No other religion in the world gives

people hope like Christianity does. We must share the hope of salvation in Christ with those we minister to."

Opportunities for both ministry and evangelism were plentiful in 1998. The IMB responded with relief in the wake of disasters that struck nearly every continent. Requests for human needs min-



MEETING NEEDS, GIVING HOPE — Volunteer O.D. Boyd (left) checks well water for contamination as Bengali Baptist worker Samuel Bala (right) observes. Five Kentucky volunteers tested water after thousands of tube wells were submerged by flooding in Bangladesh. In many cases, such human needs ministry project open the door to the Gospel when other methods have failed. (BP photo by Roy M. Burroughs)

istry funds rose 115%. The demands depleted the general needs fund, used for items such as blankets, roofing materials, and medicine.

Southern Baptists responded. After the flooding in Bangladesh and Hurricane Georges swept across the Caribbean, word went out to Baptists concerning the desperate need for funds to help in general relief. Within a six-week period, more than \$400,000 was received by the IMB for use in disaster response.

Missionaries Larry Johnson and Ken Bowie had tried for years to reach the mountain people near Cajamarca, Peru, with the gospel, but it was after wells drilled by Southern Baptists provided clean drinking water during the cholera epidemic of 1991 that a harvest of souls began that is still being reaped eight years later.

"When you give them a glass of clean water in Jesus' name and the diarrhea stops with the children, and their families are healthier, they're going to listen to you," Johnson said.

Liberia seminary reopens

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)—After a seven-year shutdown during a brutal civil war, the campus of the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary (LBTS) reopened in March, launching a new era of training leaders to evangelize and start churches.

"Today we are rededicating the land and buildings, which are the tangible, material expression of the will and providence of God for his people in Liberia," said International Mission Board missionary Bradley Brown during a rededication service March 2 in Monrovia, the nation's capital. Brown was the seminary's first president and currently teaches several classes at LBTS.

Although the campus had been closed since the civil war began in 1990, the seminary offered classes at another location in downtown Monrovia between 1993 and 1996. During the seven years the campus was closed, Ghanaian peacekeeping soldiers lived on the campus and protected it from looters.

The civil war that ravaged Liberia began in 1990 when current Liberian President Charles Taylor led a rebel insurgency against the military government, which had controlled the nation since 1980. In 1997, Taylor became the first democratically elected president of the country in 12 years.

Liberia and China were the first two mission fields opened by Southern Baptists, both in 1846, a year after the convention organized its foreign mission board. Currently 95 students take classes at the seminary.

Looking back

10 years ago

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union looks to the theme "Find Us Faithful," as they gather at Colonial Hills Church, Southaven, for their 110th annual meeting. Joan Tyler of Collins is elected to a five-year term as president. Wilda Fancher of Monticello presided for her fifth and final year.

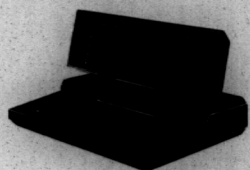
20 years ago

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union moves to the Delta for its 1979 annual meeting at First Church, Greenville. Patti Dent of Holly Springs is elected president. The 1979 annual meeting carried the theme, "To All the World."

50 years ago

Yoneka Kajita, a Japanese Blue Mountain College student, speaks to Winston Association at Murphy Creek Church, Louisville. "Nicky," as she is called by her fellow students, was an interpreter with the Japanese army in Manila, Philippines, during World War II and later was an American prisoner.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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The necessity of Easter

He is risen! Is not Spring the perfect season to contemplate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ?

As he passed from the cold, dark grave to life again, so do we travel the road to Easter first through the chilling blight of Winter, finally arriving at the welcome warmth and renewal of Spring. What a fitting way to frame the meaning of Easter.

The secular celebration of Christmas may be more important in the eyes of the world, and Super Bowl Weekend may draw greater attention, but no more important date than Easter exists in the heart of the Christian.

It is on Easter each year we are reminded that Jesus was exactly who he said he was, and that he did exactly what he said he would do. It is the Resurrection that showed beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus was (and is) the long-awaited Messiah sent by God to save mankind from utter destruction.

It is on the promise of our own salvation and eternal life that we confidently go forth into all the world, often at deadly risk, to tell everyone we encounter about the joy we have found in accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior — and how they too can have the same relationship with him.

As delightful as is our celebration each Spring, Easter does not exist in a vacuum. The events in the days preceding the Resurrection — and how we figure into those events — must also be taken into account.

There was a need for the Resurrection because Jesus had been killed. Jesus was killed while sacrificing himself for the sins of the world — then, now, and in the future. That means you and me (Rom. 3:22-25).

Although we wince at the fact that we are as responsible for Jesus' death as the Roman soldiers who drove nails through his flesh and into the tree, and as owing of his sacrifice as those who made his life a

misery in those last days, it's still a fact.

There's not a parent who could imagine seeing his son beaten, ridiculed, spat upon, and left hanging naked from a public cross, bleeding and asking for something to quench his thirst between each desperate breath. Even then, he suffered the mockery of the very people for which he was being sacrificed.

That's exactly what our Heavenly Father had to endure on that terrible day to which we euphemistically refer to as "Good Friday." It was no good day for him.

Yet, he loved us enough to endure that miserable time (John 3:16). In our praise to God this Easter Sunday, let us also offer humble apologies for our role in Good Friday.

Tim Nicholas, director of communications for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and part-time bard, recently penned a poem about this aspect of the Easter story.

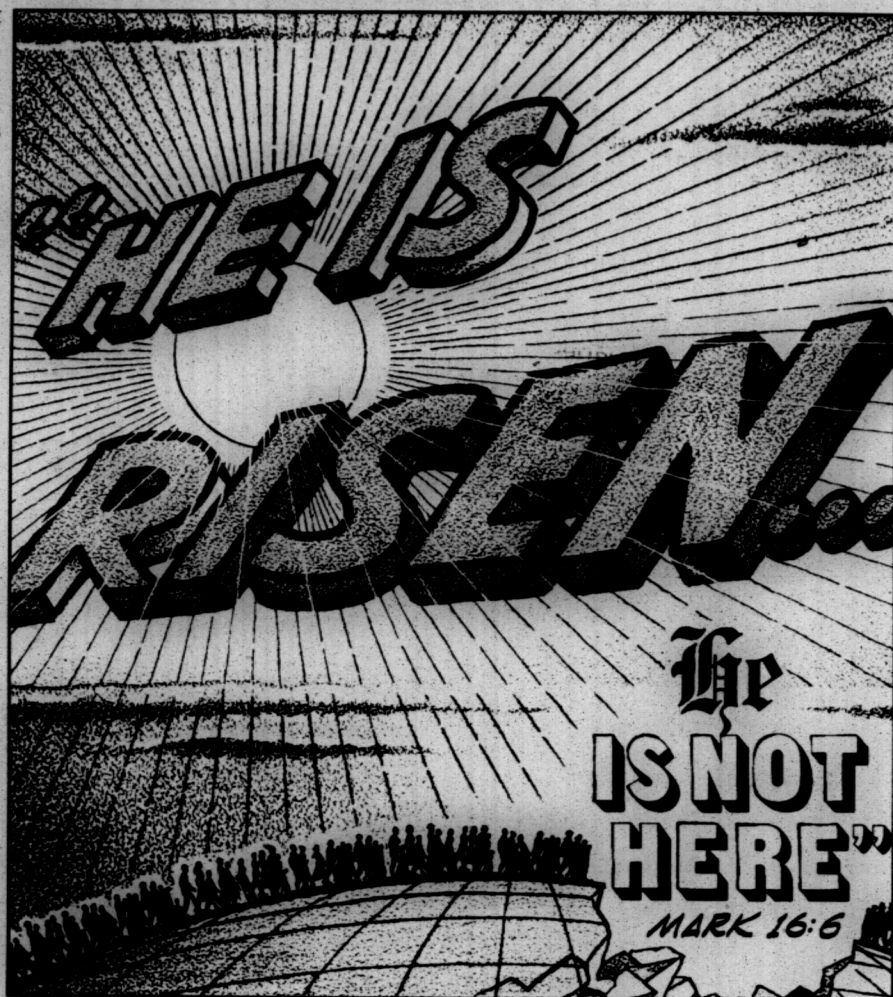
At the beginning of the poem, the instruments that caused Jesus so much pain during his torture and execution have gathered in a perverse sort of class reunion.

The thorns boast of the mockery they inflicted, and how they forced blood into his eyes. Not to be outdone, the whip takes credit for the 39 gaping wounds on his back and

how his precious blood pooled on the floor. Finally, the cross brags of holding tight the contorted body of Jesus writhing in agony until death enveloped him.

*And then the final event they'd hear,
The one that caused the greatest pain.
They introduced their honored guest
And called me by my name.*

As we celebrate the joy of the Risen Savior in our churches this Sunday, may we not lose sight of why it was necessary for him to die in the first place.



GUEST OPINION:



Preparing for harvest in Colombia

By Peggy Wallace, missionary
International Mission Board

ago. Over 60% of the population of Bogota live in high rise, multi-unit apartment complexes.

We and another missionary couple, Charles and Jamie Ruede, were burdened with the reality that thousands, even hundreds of thousands, of people live in these apartment complexes.

They live a busy life, often leaving for work or school as early as 6 a.m. Many mothers, as well as fathers, work. The children are involved in after-school and weekend activities.

These apartment dwellers leave no time for a spiritual life. Though many are hungry to find more meaning to life — answers to such problems as alcoholism, drug abuse, infidelity, rebellious teens — they simply don't have time and are

unwilling to open the door to those who wish to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Project Nicodemus is an effort to reach out to the Baptist community, and in a bigger sense to the evangelical community, of Bogota in a search for prayer warriors and laborers to go into the fields the Lord has ready for harvest.

These prayer warriors and laborers will be trained, encouraged, and challenged to go out into their own world of work, friends, family, and neighbors, to share the Gospel.

These new Christians, in turn, will share their newfound faith with their friends and family.

Even though we are first seeking laborers and prayer warriors from among the Christian community, we are

convinced that the bulk of the laborers are still in the harvest.

It is our vision to see multiple, reproducing, interactive Bible study groups springing up among the middle/upper class professionals of Bogota.

Karl is the leader of a new team of three missionary families and three to four Colombian couples targeting the middle/upper class professionals of Bogota. The Nicodemus Team is seeking prayer warriors to pray daily for this new work.

If God impresses you to respond, please e-mail us at nicodemo@cbc.prserve.net or write Karl and Peggy Wallace, c/o Sue Dockery, 4550 Manila Drive, Jackson, MS 39206.

"I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem (Bogota); they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem (Bogota) and makes her the praise of the earth." [Isaiah 62:6-7 NIV, paraphrased]

Peggy Wallace is a native of Jackson. Her husband Karl is a native of Magee.

Miss. missionary, others evacuate ahead of strikes

RICHMOND, Va. (BP and local reports) — Biloxi native Shannon Wolf and her family were among the Southern Baptist missionaries evacuated from hostile areas in the Balkans just hours before NATO launched air strikes on March 24.

Nine International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries, including Wolf, her husband Peter, and their five-year-old son Alexander, headed to Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, from Banja Luka, also in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Banja Luka is located in an area where sympathies would run high for Yugoslavian Serbs suffering from the air strikes.

Those missionaries, however, simply left early for a meeting already scheduled in Sarajevo, and no decision has been made about whether they will return to Banja Luka, IMB officials said.

Two other couples — Randy and Joan Bell and Ben and Meredith Hanna — left

Belgrade with their families and drove to Sarajevo, where they rested before continuing on to Zagreb, Croatia.

"While we are grateful for the safety of our personnel, our deep concern and prayer support continues for the many Christian believers and other citizens of Serbia and Kosovo among whom they worked," said IMB President Jerry Rankin.

The decision to evacuate in a time of crisis is one of the hardest a missionary ever has to make, noted Roger Briggs, associate director for IMB work in the Balkans.

"The Bells and Hannas really struggled hard with this decision. They all just sat there and cried," Briggs said. "It's a very difficult decision for a missionary to make."

"A missionary makes a life commitment to a people and goes to live with them through good and bad," he said. "Then here's a time of need for the

people they are ministering to, and the missionaries have to leave. You feel like you are losing your credibility."

Most of the time, local Christians will encourage the missionaries to leave, and sometimes those local believers would be endangered if the missionaries stay, Briggs explained.

"If Americans become a target of violence in a volatile situation like this, then their close friends also can become targets, which puts their lives and property in jeopardy."

"Their friends try to take care of them when they should be taking care of their own families," he pointed out.

When Christians understand how much God wants to bring a lost world back to himself, and invest their lives in missionary service, their perspective changes on issues like personal safety, Briggs said.

"Those of us who are outside the situation think it's so obvious

what they ought to do," he said, "but they deal with it from a different perspective than we do. It shows an awful lot of integrity on their part to struggle with a decision like this. You've got to admire their commitment."

Randy and Joan Bell are from Okla. and N.M., respectively. Ben and Meredith Hanna are from Tex. and Calif., respectively. Missionaries in Banja Luka were the Wolf family, James Early (Md.) and Jennifer Early (Tex.), Roy Boudoin (La.) and Anita Boudoin (Ala.), Donna Robinson (Calif.), Peter Wolf (N.Y.), and missionary journeymen Aaron Byrd (Tex.) and Shawn Mooneyham (Tex.).



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Record

BSU student missionaries commissioned

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

A total of 144 Mississippi Baptist Student Union (BSU) student summer missionaries were commissioned in an emotional-filled service March 26 at the annual Leadership Training Conference at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian.

BSU leaders marked the third year in a row that over 100 student summer missionaries have been sent around the world. In 1998, a record 167 students were commissioned — the largest group in the 51 years of Mississippi Baptist student summer missions.

While this year's 144 missionaries are less than last year's total, the group represents a sustained new level of commitment to missions on behalf of Christian college students around the state.

Not only are the missionaries selected by student peers, all the money for sending them to seven foreign countries and over

40 states is raised by the students.

Kathy King, a student at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, shared how God worked in her heart to make her ready for summer missions.

"I was asking God to show me what he wanted me to do this summer. It was as if God said to me, 'Kathy, you need to get out of your comfort zone and follow me.'"

"A friend of mine who went to Israel last summer said 'I did what I was created to do. I followed the Lord and was obedient to his word.'"

"I put down my three choices for service. All three were in Florida because I wanted to work with children. I ended up with Arizona. God has a sense of humor."

Dustin Stockstill, a student at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, is preparing for his second year as a summer missionary. Last year he served in California.

"I applied for three places, and didn't get any of them," he said. "I learned that God puts you where he wants you to go."

"Last summer I worked in seven churches, week to week, moving about. The last week I was doing my fifth Vacation Bible School, but my mind was on going home."

"Then God sent me two boys to talk to about Christ. They were both saved."

"He just used me to give them the message. God did all the work. I was so pumped up, I was ready to save the world. I want to encourage all of you to seek the opportunities God has for you to witness for him."

Stockstill will serve in Salt Lake City, Utah, this summer.

Bruce Bradley, BSU director at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson, issued a challenge to the student missionaries and the capacity crowd of parents, friends, and BSU leaders.

"On the night before his arrest, in John 13:35, Jesus shared with his disciples from his heart, 'by this will all men know that you are my disciples, that you love one another.'"

"This is a special love," Bradley said. "It is a love of another kind that this world can't understand."

Bradley pointed out four characteristics of this love. "It is our separation, that which sets us apart."

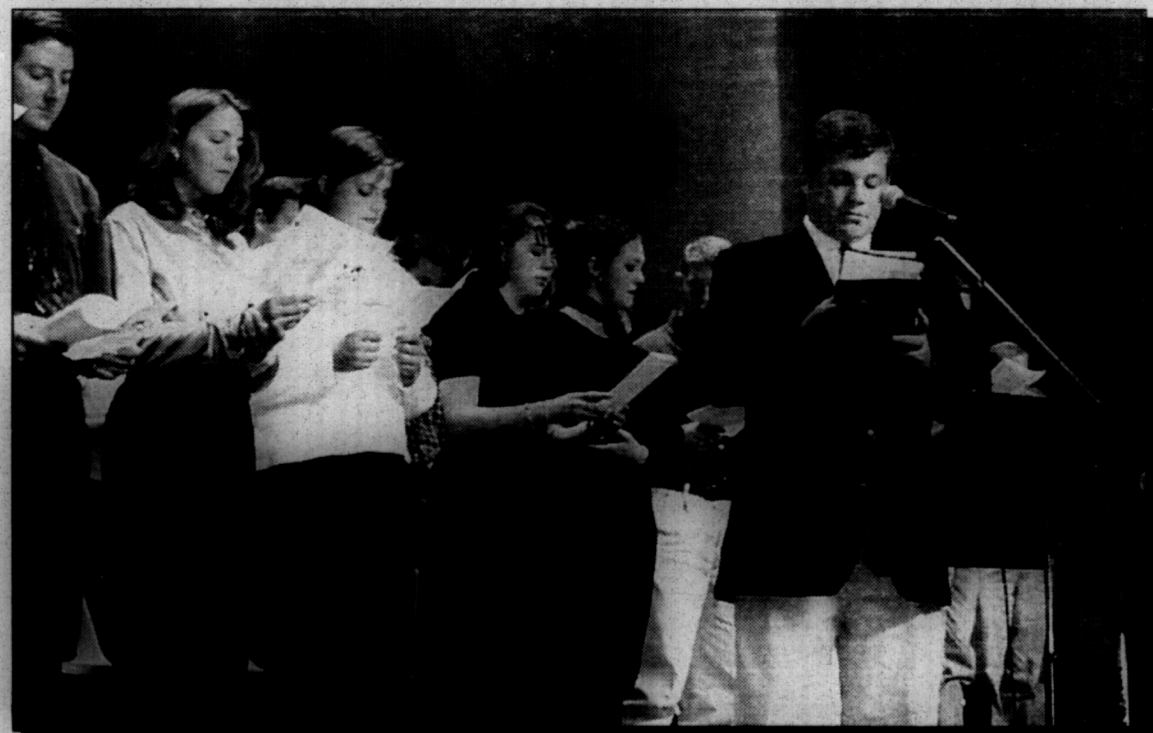
"It is our motivation to do things that go against our sinful nature. It is our salvation. It is what brought Jesus from a throne of glory to walk among men and die a sinner's death for us."

Bradley challenged the students to do four things. "One, die to yourself. Two, claim the power of the blood. Three, yield yourself to the Holy Spirit, and four, put on the full armor of God."

While at Gulfshore Assembly, the summer missionaries went through orientation sessions to prepare them for their work.

Other students had the opportunity to participate in a number of leadership training seminars, Bible study, and worship events.

For more information on BSU work in Mississippi or the BSU student summer missions program, contact the Student Work Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



GOING FORTH — Scott Vaughn (foreground), Baptist Student Union director at East Central Community College in Decatur, leads a responsive challenge March 26 before 144 student summer missionaries and a capacity crowd of parents and students at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian. (Photo by Carl M. White)

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Don't be late for Easter services!

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Christian attorney reviews religious issues

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

MAKING A POINT — Les Hughes (left), head of the department of Christian studies and philosophy at Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton, talks with Steve McFarland, director of the Center for Law and Religious Freedom, after a March 25 Christian Legal Society conference on the MC campus. (Photo by Carl M. White)



In 1990 the U.S. Supreme Court did a "frontal lobotomy" on the First Amendment, said Steve McFarland, director of the Center for Law and Religious Freedom (CLRF), during a March 25 lecture on the Mississippi College (MC) campus entitled, "Seven battles the church cannot afford to lose."

McFarland said the church cannot afford to fail in the area of the first constitutional-guaranteed freedom.

"The first thing that the first Congress decided to spell out, as a definite limitation on the power of the government, was our religious freedom," he said.

The First Amendment has two clauses, known as the free exercise clause and the establishment clause. One protects the individual's right to freely exercise religion, the other prohibits government sponsorship of any religion over another.

"There is not much left of the free exercise clause," McFarland said, pointing to two landmark legal cases.

One involved a woman named Smith in California who, because of religious convictions, did not want to rent either of her two apartments to unmarried couples. When she tried to uphold her beliefs in a rental situation, the unmarried couple involved filed a complaint with the state fair employment and housing commission.

"They ended up slamming Mrs. Smith," McFarland said. Upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, the Smith decision in effect says, "If you have religious convictions, they end when you decide to go into the market place," McFarland said.

"That is atrocious legal reasoning and very dangerous public policy," he said.

The other case involved the Western Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. Having recently relocated, the church decided to reinstate a homeless ministry in their new community.

The neighborhood association said, "not in my back yard," and the board of zoning adjustments agreed.

"It is a classic irony that it would be so difficult for a church, at no expense to the government, to put into operation its faith in a tangible way," McFarland said.

Other issues cited by McFarland were:

- Government funding for faith-based social services. "I am trying to see that the Constitution is no longer used to disqualify, across the board, faith-based social services from equal eligibility for funding."

- The right to religious expression in the work place.

"Two years ago CLRF teamed up with the American Jewish Congress and drafted guidelines for religious expression in the work place," he said. In August 1997, President Clinton implemented them as policy for federal

employees. CLRF is now urging individual states to adopt similar guidelines.

- The right of a religious organization to require its leadership to be religious. "We represent a ministry called Rejoice in Jesus C a m p u s Ministries, and at Georgia Tech this group was told that because they require that their leaders be Christians they may not meet on campus. We are talking about the right of a private, student-

initiated religious ministry to be able to choose its leaders on the basis of their religion."

- The autonomy of the church. In Seattle, Wash., an older church was declared a landmark by the city.

"This in effect meant the church no longer had control over the use of their own sanctuary. However, the city would not provide any funds for maintaining the building they declared a landmark. In other words, they were not religious enough to keep regulatory hands off, but too religious to receive any government funds."

McFarland passionately urged those in attendance to make justice for the poor a personal concern. "This is the battle that will determine the soul of this country," he stressed.

Seven Battles the Church Cannot Afford to Lose

1. Being able to bring our conscience into the marketplace
2. Receiving equal treatment in the distribution of government benefits
3. Being able to express faith at the workplace
4. Public school teachers and children having access to school facilities outside of class for prayer and encouragement
5. Autonomy of the church; having the ability and power to decide what it does with its own property
6. Standing up for persecuted believers world-wide
7. Justice for the powerless and dispossessed; equal access to the legal system

Source: Steve McFarland
Center for Law & Religious Freedom

Van needed immediately for p'ship

There is an immediate need for a 12-15 passenger van in good working condition to provide transportation for Mississippi Baptist-sponsored construction teams that will build 87 houses in hurricane-ravaged La Ceiba, Honduras, according to Paul Harrell,

director of the Partnership Missions Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Mississippi Baptists will begin a special two-year partnership with Honduran Baptists on May 1, at the request of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

For more information, contact the MBCB Partnership Missions Department at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3398; or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 398.

McFarland was the guest of the MC chapter of the Christian Legal Society; the MC School of Law; and the MC departments of history and political science, and Christian studies and philosophy.

CLRF is the legal advocacy and information arm of the Christian Legal Society, a nationwide association of almost 5,000 Christian attorneys, law students, and law professors.

Long-time MBCB employee Freddie Cook retires

PASS CHRISTIAN (local reports) — Freddie Cook began a life long career with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) just after high school.

He began by washing pots at Camp Kittiwake on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the MBCB Royal Ambassador camp at Pass Christian which was washed away in 1969 by Hurricane Camille.

At the end of April, Cook completes 37 years with the MBCB, retiring as head of maintenance at Gulfshore Assembly, Pass Christian.

Before he could get settled in at Camp Kittiwake, he was cleaning buildings after camp meetings, cutting the grass, and assuming responsibility for pool maintenance.

He directed traffic on busy U.S. Highway 90 so Kittiwake campers could cross to and from the beach.

When Mississippi Baptists bought the former Merchant Marine Cadet School at Henderson Point in Pass Christian in 1959, Cook was enlisted to help with clean up

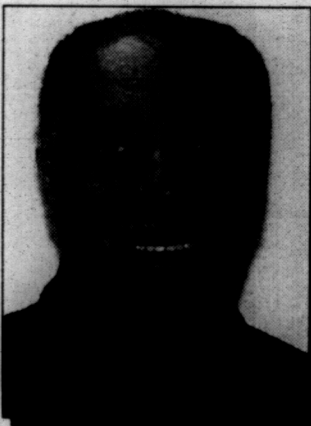
and remodeling. The old school became Gulfshore Assembly.

"God sent a mission for Mississippi Baptists and it was Gulfshore Baptist Assembly," said Cook. "The fun began soon after the purchase of the grounds, when the cleanup was underway.

Grass and weeds were four to five feet high in some places. The buildings were open. Some were occupied by raccoons, possums, and pigeons."

Cook joined the maintenance staff at Gulfshore and worked there until Camille hit. He stayed about a year afterwards to help the Army engineers to once again clean up the grounds, then he went to Jackson to work on the maintenance staff of the Baptist Building until 1978 when Gulfshore re-opened.

Cook's own home was affected by Hurricane Camille. The hurricane knocked the house off its foundation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers put it back in place. Although there were four feet of water in the house, the refrigerator was still standing.



Cook

Cook will stay on staff at Gulfshore until his retirement on April 2. He supervises a full-time staff of eight and another 12 people during the summer season.

"I enjoy working with the convention board. The people are just so kind. I love to help people, and working here at Gulfshore allows me to do just that," he said.

Cook and his wife Edith have eight children: Florence, Rachel, Frederica, Desiree, Brian, Gerald, Leo, and Bryce; and 15 grandchildren.

The Cooks live in Pass Christian where he is a lay leader and church treasurer at St. Paul United Methodist Church. He assists the pastor and preaches occasionally.

Cook also sings and plays guitar in church settings. His most requested song is, "If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again."

Cook served six years on the Pass Christian Planning Commission; six years as a member of the Gulf Coast Head Start program; five years with the Pass Christian Police Dept.; and is currently serving on the City of Pass Christian Election Commission.

(Tisha Mercer and Chad Polk, former public relations interns at Gulfshore Assembly, contributed to this story.)

Mississippians aiming to clean up Internet

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

It's a growing problem modern moms and dads have to face, sooner or later: Computer skills are an indispensable — and unavoidable — component of every child's life, but how do you keep the bad stuff out of your home and off their computers?

Parents are daily discovering to their dismay that despite their best efforts to keep up with their children's computer use, pornographers, pedophiles, racists, bomb makers, illegal drug users, and suicide promoters are finding clever ways to reach impressionable kids over the Internet.

Internet locations, known as web sites, are unmonitored, unregulated, and in most cases available free of charge. Recent court cases have declared the Internet is constitutionally-protected free speech, meaning just about any material can be placed there.

What's a parent to do? Three Mississippi Baptist laymen believe they've found an answer — Integrity Online, an Internet access provider that "filters" the most objectionable Internet material before it lands on the screen of a child's computer.

"The Internet reminds me of fire: you can cook with it, sterilize with it, make bricks with it, do all kinds of useful things with it — or you can destroy the countryside," observed Skip Mathews, a member of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, and chairman of the board for Integrity Online in Mississippi.

Mathews is partnering with Stacy Davidson, a member of First Church, Jackson, to bring an Integrity Online franchise to Mississippi.

"Three or four years ago, it became obvious to me that the Internet was going in a bad direction. That's when we started to look into what could be done to keep objectionable material from coming into our homes," Davidson said.

Their first venture, called Eyes Online, was folded into Integrity Online when the pair acquired a franchise from the Portland, Oregon-based company in November 1998.

They have since hired Carroll Blackledge, a member of Ridgecrest Church, Madison, and veteran of the wireless communications industry, to serve as president of the company.

"Integrity Online is an Internet Service Provider (ISP). It has all the technical bene-

fits of any other ISP, but it has the advantage of being filtered for content before it reaches your home.

"Since it is filtered at the server (the computer that gathers and ultimately transmits material from the Internet to individual computers), there is no way to turn it off or defeat it — which makes it very difficult for children to get around it," Blackledge said.

The Integrity Online filtering system has three integral parts, according to Blackledge:

◆ In Portland, proprietary algorithms on powerful servers are constantly monitoring the Internet.

◆ A list of objectionable sites is sent for evaluation to a team of Integrity Online screeners, who ultimately determine whether the site is valid according to established guidelines.

Integrity Online servers are dynamically updated, and objectionable sites are blocked before leaving the server.

◆ With a click of the mouse, individual computer users can send questionable material directly to the evaluation team, thanks to an on-screen feature called "Site Patrol." A determination on the validity of the site is usually made within 24 hours.

"We don't say we can block 100% of everything that is bad. No company can say that, but studies have shown the Integrity Online system is more than 98% effective. It's also low-maintenance once installed," Mathews pointed out.

"It seems that a lot of people are ready for this type of service. We are currently

running 200% ahead of projections for the Jackson area," he added.

An Integrity Online account costs \$21.95 per month — comparable to unfiltered Internet service from other companies. Each master account can have as many as

five sub-accounts for a family of users.

Mathews and Davidson have also acquired Integrity Online franchise rights for Memphis; Little Rock and Pine Bluff in Arkansas; New Orleans; and the Miss. Gulf Coast.

They plan to put those areas online as soon as equipment is installed and more staffers are hired to round out the company.

"It is critical to us that we put together a Christian team to run this company. Please pray for us that we will find the right people for this work," Davidson said.

Blackledge's reason for join-

ing Mathews and Davidson in this venture turns out to be simple and straightforward.

"My goal is that the Lord be glorified in all that I do, and I believe I can accomplish that with this company," he said.

Blackledge is available to speak to church and school groups, civic clubs, and other organizations that would like to know more about the potential of the Internet and Integrity Online's filtering capabilities.

For more information on Integrity Online and to schedule Blackledge for an appearance, contact him at 125 S. Congress Street, Suite 1520, Jackson, MS 39201. Telephone: (601) 718-3937, or e-mail: carroll@iolms.com. Integrity Online's web site can be accessed at www.iolms.com



ONLINE CHECK — Stacy Davidson (left) and Carroll Blackledge (right) look on as Skip Mathews makes a point about the software running the Integrity Online computer equipment in downtown Jackson. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

No anthrax found in letter to SBC Bldg.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — According to FBI lab results, anthrax was not found in a letter claiming to carry the deadly bacteria opened at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Building in Nashville, Tenn., on March 5.

Officials with Nashville's Metro Health Department reported the results March 19 to SBC Executive Committee officials.

Four Executive Committee staff members and a fire department captain underwent a decontamination wash and were given antibiotics. The SBC Building was closed March 8, and the reported anthrax incubation period of one to six days passed without any report of illness.

GONE

Gone is a four-letter word. I mean, it is a bad four-letter word. On almost every occasion when the word **gone** appears, it is not good!

On a recent morning I stumbled into the kitchen, poured my cereal into a bowl, walked over to the refrigerator, opened the door, picked up the milk carton, and discovered — you got it — the milk was **gone**. The day began on a bad note.

Another morning as I was leaving for work, I got in the car, started it with no problem, and then put it in reverse to back out. I thought I had hit something. I put the car in park, jumped out, and ran around the car only to find that the back right wheel was sitting on the ground. The air was **gone**. **Gone** can create some problems.

Sometime back as I was visiting in the hospital, I walked



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

into a room unaware of the situation, and unless you knew better, you would think it was just by chance.

A small cluster of family members was standing inside, quietly weeping. When I opened the door the daughter, with tears in her eyes, gently said of her father, "He is **gone**."

Moments before, her dad had died and their hearts were feeling the sting of death because he was **gone**.

You may not realize it, but the difficulties we experience in aging are due to the fact that

this process involves things that are **gone** — eyesight, **gone**; hearing, **gone**; small waistline, **gone**; hair, **gone**; energy, **gone**; and (for most of us) brain, **gone**.

Gone is not a good thing, but then comes Easter, and our wonderful, life-changing Lord Jesus Christ, as only he can do, takes the bad things of life and turns them around into glorious things.

Can you imagine that Easter Sunday morning when the disciples discovered, and then said, and word spread — "He's **gone**!" The angel said, "He is not

here but he has risen as he said."

Jesus is **gone** from the tomb. What a glorious thought!

John saw Jesus' old grave clothes, including the napkin that had been on his face, but Jesus was **gone**. Suddenly with the rising of a new day, a resurrection day, **gone** became a good thing.

When Jesus left that tomb, it was not only him that was **gone**, but he took our sins with him — all of them — **gone**.

Our fears and guilt, **gone**; our condemnation, **gone**; and our debt, **gone**.

At the tomb, Jesus takes away everything that we need removed from our lives, and everything that we stand in need of receiving, he brings.

No wonder we gather together on Easter Sunday in great crowds to sing and celebrate the living Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, who made **gone** a good thing!

Happy and glorious Easter!

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Salem Church, Covington County, held ground breaking services for a new fellowship hall/activities building on March 7. Committee members (pictured) are Jane McGlocklin, Judy Collins, Brett Golson, pastor, Rudolph Sims, Jeanelle Dickens, and Lynwood Williams III.

Baptist Health Systems and the Mississippi College (MC) School of Nursing are sponsoring the fourth annual Spring Health Fair from 4-7 p.m. on April 1 at the Baptist Healthplex, located on the MC campus in Clinton. For more information, call (601) 968-5130.

Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson, will host Squire Parsons in concert on April 11 at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. The church is located at 5275 Terry Road. For more information contact Anthony Turner at (601) 372-7812.

Thirty-five teenagers and nine adults (pictured) from First Church, Canton, spent their spring break holiday in Harlingen, Texas, on a mission trip. The group worked at Parkdale Deaf Baptist Mission, the largest deaf church in Texas. They painted the whole exterior of the church, painted the fellowship hall, spring cleaned the entire interior of the building, built four flowerbeds, and readied the lawn

for the advent of spring. On Wednesday night, the youth lead Parkdale's worship service with four songs that they learned in sign language specifically for this trip. Justin Russell, a senior at Canton Academy shared his

testimony while Chris Mills, pastor of Parkdale, interpreted his message through sign language. The group also attended worship services at First Church of Harlingen, the parent of Parkdale Deaf Mission.



Mission group from First Church, Canton

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Freda Braddock, a Blue Mountain College (BMC) student from Ripley, and Dot Jackson, a BMC faculty member, were honored at the 12th annual HEADWAE program at the state capitol. Higher Education Appreciation Day/Working for Academic

Excellence was established in 1988 by legislative resolution to honor state's public and private institutions of higher learning. The program is sponsored by the Mississippi Legislature and supported by the state's corporate community.



Braddock and Jackson

The Naturals will perform their annual "Naturally Spectacular" concert in Swor Auditorium in Nelson Hall on the Mississippi College campus, April 8 and April 10 at 7:30 p.m. The group travels throughout the state of Mississippi and the southeastern region. The Naturals provide quality entertainment enhanced by spectacular lighting effects and technical sound. For tickets or additional information, call (601) 925-3440.

The Music Department of Mississippi College presented Jeremy M. Little, tenor, and Ezra Wall, baritone, in a joint voice recital on March 30. Little and Wall, both juniors, and both are majoring in voice performance. Little, a member of New Hebron Church, is the son of James E. and Rhonda Little of New Hebron. Wall is the son of Curtis and Christy Wall of LaCrosse, Wis.

made by calling 1-800-235-0136 through April 2.

The Music Department of Mississippi College presented David Moore, baritone, in a senior voice recital on March 29. Moore is the son of Gail E. Moore and the late Thomas A. Moore of Columbus. He has been honored by being included in the Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities and was the recipient of the prestigious Presser Scholarship.

Blue Mountain College will host SpringFest 1999 for high school senior, junior, and sophomore girls on Thursday afternoon, April 8, and Friday, April 9. Reservations may be

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Miss Blue Mountain College and her court were recently presented to the student body during chapel. Students were nominated by the faculty and staff for this honor and elected by the student body. Pictured (from left) are Carrie Sanders, Senatobia, senior maid; Stephanie Hood, Guntown, senior maid; Kourtney Barlow, Algoma, junior maid; Amy Crocker, Pochontas, Tenn., junior maid; Elizabeth Dunlap, New Albany, maid of honor; Connie Harris, Oxford, Miss Blue Mountain College; Brandi Tate, Golden, sophomore maid; Anita Goolsby, Ripley, sophomore maid; Andrea Phillips, Anderson, Ala., freshman maid; and Penny Pulse, Middleton, Tenn., freshman maid.

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MINISTER WITH CHILDREN:

Second-Ponce de Leon (SPdL) Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia is seeking a Minister with Children. This person will serve as one of twelve Pastoral Staff team ministry equippers. SPdL is a 3,600 member congregation in north Atlanta drawing people from 108 zip codes throughout the metro region. Offering both traditional and contemporary approaches to worship, SPdL offers its members the choice to support missions and ministries through either the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or the Southern Baptist Convention and ordains women and men to the diaconate. Applicants should have a seminary degree, professional experience in Baptist congregational leadership with children's ministry, awareness of the contemporary challenges facing children and their families, and a desire to build a team of children's teachers & leaders. Resumes with references should be sent to: Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Minister with Children Search Committee, 2715 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30305.

Deadline is April 28, 1999

SEEKING PASTORS

Editor:

First Baptist Church of Moriarty, N.M., is currently accepting applications for the position of Senior Pastor. Please forward resumes to: First Baptist Church of Moriarty, Attention: Pastor Search Team, P. O. Box 33, Moriarty, New Mexico 87035. Telephone (505) 832-4605. Fax (505) 832-0213.

Pastor Search Team
Moriarty, N. M.

Editor:

A full-time pastor is needed for Immanuel Baptist Church (member of Southern Baptist Convention), 3415 W. N36, Pinckney, Michigan 48169. Pinckney is a community of 10,000 people and still growing! Please send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church, Attention: Pastor Search Committee, 15635 W. Twelve Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan 48076-3091.

Pastor Search Committee
Pinckney, Mich.

RECALLS YOUNGSTOWN

Editor:

A few of us at Van Winkle Church, Jackson, can relate to the great progress taking place in Youngstown, Ohio, as reported on the entire back page of the March 18 issue of The Baptist Record.

Three carloads of us were part of the Steel Valley Crusade (in Youngstown) in June 1967.

Our late pastor Herman Milner and Lincoln Newman of the Baptist board each led in separate efforts in the crusade.

Milner preached the first sermon as a Baptist minister in Youngstown on the last day of the two-week effort.

Another group led by

Newman worked in another area. Melvin Jones from McComb was with them, and he became the pastor of the mission that became a church.

Later, another team led by the late Katie V. Wilson, John Heiden, and others assisted Jones.

We later learned that other Southern Baptist missions came about, and some Southern Baptist churches came into being.

I do not write this that we laborers take credit for anything that grew out of our effort.

Only the hand of a loving God could have brought progress led by those people of that day and many others (mentioned) in the March 18 articles.

Tom Walden
Jackson

MUSLIMS IN HEAVEN?

Editor:

I feel compelled to challenge your editorial opinion on the March 4 issue of The Baptist

Record. If Matthew recorded the true words of Jesus in Matt. 25:31-46, and Jesus did not lie, any error that Bill Clinton made in saying he would see King Hussein in heaven was on the "safe side" of the do-not-judge Scriptures — or were you in a Clinton-bashing mode such as those who occupy our national SBC leadership these days?

Rom. 13:9 is crystal clear, and I will be judged on my treatment of every person I meet because they are probably one of the little ones, our neighbor! I am convinced that all Scripture, and any resulting theology proved true, point to the simple fact that if I don't treat my neighbor right, hell is my unplanned destination (and may be the unexpected destination of many believers).

Thus my question: Even if King Hussein was a Muslim, will he meet the criteria at the final judgment? Keep in mind that we professed Christians are not agreed on the true person of Jesus, and even worse we

Baptists have a built-in aversion to the very point by which we will be judged. That concept is a key component of all major religions in the world today.

I do not plan on opting out of heaven even if some of those with whom I disagree are there. I plan on saying, "Hello, friend. I'm glad to see you here!"

Donald R. Windham
Bay Springs

THANKS FOR EDITORIAL

Editor:

My family and I wish to thank you for your editorial in the March 4 issue of The Baptist Record about the President's message regarding King Hussein's death.

We would not have known it if it had not been in the Record.

We were horrified at what was said by the President and wish he had said the words you said he should have said. Just keep up your good work.

Zelma Till
Brandon

EASTER SERVICES

Bethesda Church, Terry, will host its annual Easter Sunrise Service on April 4. Services will start at 7 a.m. with a fellowship breakfast following. Marty Wilson is pastor. For more information, call (601) 878-5141 or 878-5399.

"The Day He Wore My Crown" will be presented at Wesson Church, Wesson, at 7 p.m. on April 1, 2, and 4.

Live Crucifixion scenes will be at Calvary Church, New Augusta, April 3, 6-9 p.m., and April 4, 6-10 p.m. Tony Stroud is pastor. For more information, call (601) 788-6218 or 964-8483.

Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson, will present "He is Worthy" on Easter Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Also scheduled for the celebration is a sunrise service at 8 a.m., followed by a continental breakfast at 8:45 a.m., and Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Byron R. Malone is pastor.

"At the Name of Jesus" will be presented at Newhebron Church, Newhebron, at 7 p.m. on April 3 and April 4. David Wilkinson is pastor.

"After the Cross" will be presented at Antioch Church, Columbus, April 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Services held at Sylvarena Church, Wesson, will begin with a Good Friday program, "The Agony of The Cross" at 7 p.m., April 2. Special music will be presented along with "A Time to Remember." The speaker will be Jon Vanlandingham. Sunrise services and The Lord's Supper will continue on Sunday, April 4, 7 a.m., with breakfast served, Sunday School at 9 a.m., "The Blossoming Of The Cross" at 10 a.m., and worship at 7 p.m.

"God For Us" will be presented at Mt. Olive, Coila, on April 4 at 9:30 a.m. and again on April 11 at 6 p.m.

"Alone on the Altar" will be presented at Salem Heights Church, Laurel, at 7 p.m. on April 3 and April 4.

Buster Wilson, member of Park Place Church, Brandon, and Steve Tadlock, member of First Church, Pearl, will conduct a celebration of the Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross, on Saturday, April 3. Wilson, Tadlock, and the team will start the walk with a 90-pound wooden cross in the parking lot of First Church, Richland, at 12 noon. A crusade rally will be held 6 p.m. at the church. Chuck Herring is pastor. For more information, call Wilson at 946-7073.

"In the Presence of Greatness," will be presented at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, with Chris and Diane Machen as special guest on April 4 at 8:15 a.m. and 10:55 a.m. Jim Shaddix, interim pastor, will bring the message.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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Revival dates

Harmony, Crystal Springs: April 4-7; Sunday, Sunday School, 9 a.m., worship, 10 a.m., Easter Cantata will be presented by the choir at 6 p.m., and worship, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ron Herrod, Loudon, Tenn., evangelist; Tony Hinton, music; for more information, call (601) 892-1121.

Belden, Belden: April 18-21; Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 7 p.m. Mon.-Wed., 12-12:45 p.m. (lunch provided), and 7 p.m.; Ben Yarber, Mathiston, guest speaker; Don Baggett, pastor.

Baptist Health Systems is partnering with the American Lung Association and the Mississippi Asthma Collaborative to sponsor "Camp Wheez-A-Way," a special camp for children ages 9-12 with asthma. Set for Sept. 24-26 at Twin Lakes Camp in Florence, the camp will offer children entertainment and a fun way to learn how to manage their asthma more successfully. Registration will be taken until May 15. For more information contact Tom Kearns, American Lung Association of Mississippi, at (601) 362-5453.

GAs of Bay Springs Church, Bay Springs, sponsored their 3rd annual Valentine Project in February. The girls made and filled orders for 414 Valentine cards and 1,042 sweet treats that were to be delivered to church members at Wednesday night prayer meeting. Orders were also accepted for delivery to homebound members



GAs of Bay Springs Church, Bay Springs



GA Banquet, Temple Church, Hattiesburg

and to the Jasper General Nursing Home. A donation of \$747.50 was received. The money will be used for various mission projects throughout the coming year. Pictured (front row, from left) are Ali Alexander, Emily Tolbert, Caroline McCormick, and Alex Sumrall; (back row) Marie White, Leslie Husbands, Alice McCormick, and Laura McCormick. Leaders are Mary Clawson and Lanae McCormick.

Temple Church, Hattiesburg, held its

Father/Daughter GA Banquet with a total of 96 dads and daughters on Feb. 19. The guest speaker was Beth Holmes, consultant, Christian Action Commission, Mississippi Baptist Convention. Dinner was served and a film of girls and their dads to the song, Butterfly Kisses, was shown. Kathy Mason is GA director.



Centreville Church, Centreville, recently honored former WMU directors during the WMU Focus Week activities. Geneva Wheeler, present director, is pictured. Pictures on the table are Clara Jones, Annie Lea Richardson (deceased), Ora Marsalis (deceased), Celine Knighton (deceased), and Fannie Germany (deceased).

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Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

Where do dogs go when they die? My puppy got run over and my Mom says she doesn't know.

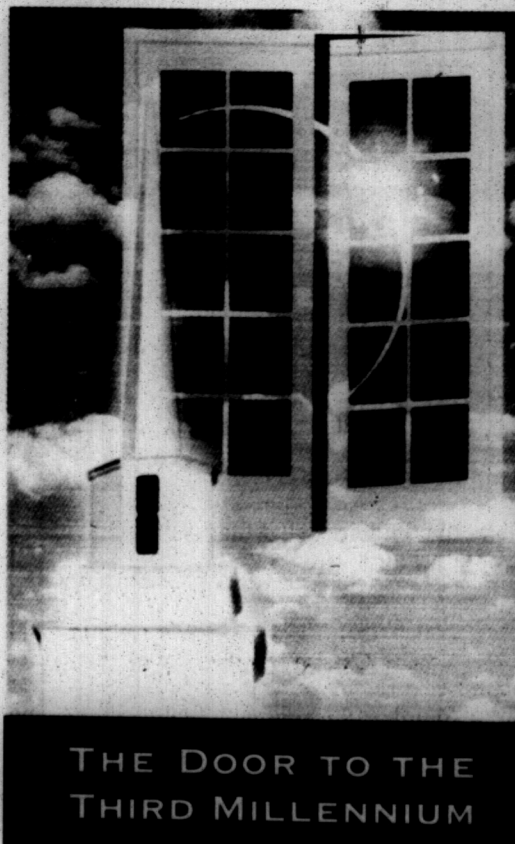
Dogs are animals God created for us to enjoy here on earth. I do not believe dogs go to heaven, which is where we Christians will live forever with Jesus. When we get to heaven, we will have such a wonderful relationship with Jesus that we will not need anything else, like a puppy, to bring enjoyment and fulfillment. Your puppy was your special friend, and you are grieving this loss. Try to remember special times with your puppy. Keep a photo of your puppy and think about the fun you had together. You loved your puppy and your puppy loved you. Sometimes we go through a lot of pain when we lose what we love. In

heaven, though, we will have no pain because we will be with Jesus. Think about that fact as you work through this loss.

I really don't see a need for you Christian counselors. Give me one good reason why a guy can't handle his own problems.

How about one good Scripture passage — *Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work. If one falls down his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.* (Eccl. 4:9-10, 12 NIV) If you don't know who serves as the third strand, ask your pastor.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



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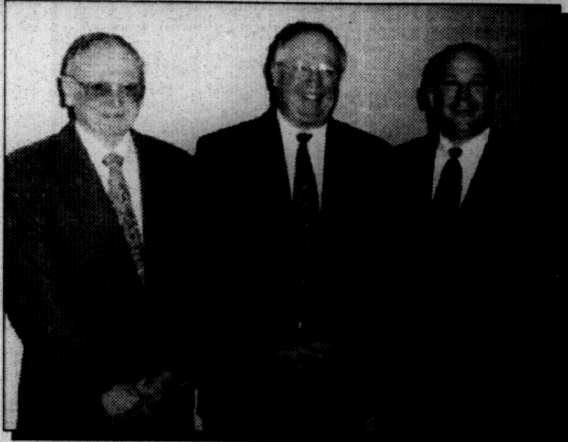
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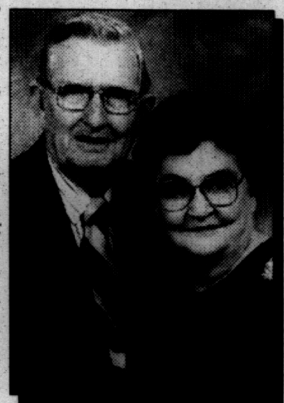
NAMES IN THE NEWS

Deacon Ordination was held at Parkway Church, Hernando, on Feb. 21 with David Edwards as the candidate. Pictured (from left) are James Steele, deacon chairman; Edwards; and Mike Ramage, pastor.

James and Winnie Watts were recently honored by Branch Church, Scott Association, on the occasion of his retirement as pastor. They were presented with a money tree and a set of steel bean sticks (a special gift from the RAs). During the morning service, they were also presented a plaque of appreciation for their 40 years in the ministry. He was given a certificate to commemorate his ten years of service to Branch Church.



Deacons of Parkway Church, Hernando



The Watts

Lyla Miller was recognized by Pearson Church, Pearl, on Feb. 14 for having perfect attendance in Sunday School for 2,000 consecutive Sundays. She was presented a corsage and a

plaque of appreciation. Miller has been a teacher in the children's department for this entire time. Pictured with Miller is Scott W. Jones, pastor.

Laston Webb was honored recently by Mount Carmel Church, Edinburg, for serving over 50 years as deacon. He was ordained in 1948 and has been a member of the church since 1933. Pictured (from left) are Webb, his wife Burnette, Keith Fulton, pastor, and D. J. Wilkinson Jr., chairman of deacons.



Miller and Jones



Deacons of Unity Church, Georgetown



The Webbs, Fulton, and Wilkinson



New Prospect Church, Chickasaw Association, held ordination services for Jonathan Wade Haimes on Feb. 28. Haimes is presently serving as interim pastor of Shiloh Church, Chickasaw Association. Pictured (from left) are Sid Murphree, deacon; Haimes; John T. Flippin, pastor; and Neely Blissard, deacon.

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FOR SALE: Twenty ten foot pine pews, four pulpit chairs, pulpit, and communion table. Pews padded seat and back in light mauve. All for \$3,000.00. Call Pastor Holcomb, (601) 489-8789.

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YOUTH OUTINGS? Outdoor paintball games! Year-round! 10 years experience. Book yours today! Curry Creek Outdoors, 1161 Old Hwy 49, Seminary, MS 39479. (601) 722-9000.

PARADISE LANES: Mississippi's only smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-ins, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS (601) 372-7700.

SEEKING FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH. Send resumes to First Baptist Church P.O. Box 352, Hamburg, Arkansas 71646.

CHRISTIAN MOVIES The very best videos at discount prices. CALL 828-891-2767. "Pamela's Prayer" plus many others. Complete CATALOG at: www.ChristianFilms.com.

MT. PARAN CHURCH is seeking full-time pastor. Send resumes to: Search Committee, P.O. Box 62, Shongaloo, LA 71072.

POSITION AVAILABLE: Hodge Baptist Church, Hodge, Louisiana is seeking an individual to serve as Minister of Music and Youth. Please send resumes to Search Committee, Hodge Baptist Church, P.O. Drawer 340, Hodge, Louisiana 71247.

Five deacons were recently ordained at Unity Church, Georgetown. Pictured (from left) are Harold Rials, Robert Breeden, Billy Joe Buckley, Bubba Mullins, and Paul Bennett. Jerome McLendon is pastor.

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SOUTH JACKSON CHURCH is seeking a part-time Minister of Youth. The church is looking for a bi-vocational person or a student to lead in this ministry. Please send resumes to Personnel Committee, Griffith Memorial Baptist Church, 5275 Terry Rd., Jackson, MS 39212.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BROOKLYN, MS is accepting resumes for music minister. For more information call (601) 583-3746 or (601) 584-6975. Mail resumes to Peggy Sellers, 323 Shattles Loop, Brooklyn, MS 39425.

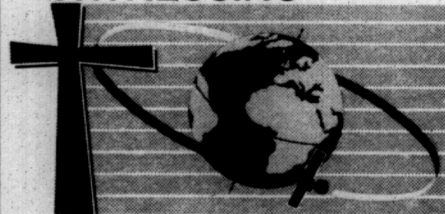
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, TERRY, MS is seeking a full-time Minister of Youth and Activities to develop and direct a comprehensive program of evangelism, discipleship, ministry, and education directed toward youth and their families. This person will also develop and direct a program of church activities and recreation that promotes evangelism, discipleship, ministry, and fellowship within the church and the community. This person will also have special emphasis to coordinate such activities for children and their families. Persons feeling God's leadership to such a ministry position may submit their resumes to the Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 159, Terry, MS 39170.

Revival results

Wayside, Vicksburg: March 7-10; four professions of faith; Greg Clemts, Vicksburg, evangelist; Linda Patterson, Vicksburg, music; Larry W. Haggard, pastor.

New Life, Leaf (Greene): Feb. 21-Mar. 5; 60 professions of faith; 62 baptized; and 14 new members; Tommy Brill, Escatawpa, evangelist; Philip Erkhart, music; Jerry Rawls, pastor.

WITNESSING



THROUGH MEDIA

AWARDS BANQUET
FRIDAY APRIL 16
6:00-9:00 P.M.

RIDGECREST BAPTIST CHURCH

MADISON, MS
APRIL 16-17, 1999

WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY APRIL 17
8:00 A.M. - 3:15 P.M.

Internet Ministry 101
Technology 2000
Sound Advice
WOW! You're on the Air!
Getting Started in Media
NO! Your Other Left
OOPS, I'm the Director
Creative Production

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

From death to life

John 19:16-18, 28-30; 20:11-18

By Beth W. Cape

The mourning dove coos. The gentle breeze blows the new green leaves and the still-bare branches. The wisteria shows its beautiful color. The new life of Spring is here! Even the azaleas are blooming beautifully. A few brave dogwoods are peeking through the trees, but the weatherman says there may be a freeze soon. Down here in south Mississippi it's the prettiest Spring we've seen in a long time. It hardly seems fair that a freeze may come along and kill everything.

It's not fair! How often we think or hear this statement. Children say it's not fair when

their parents won't let them do something that their friends can do. Wives often think that it's not fair if it's their job to do all the cooking, washing dishes, washing clothes, mopping floors, and all those other tasks that never end.

Husbands may often think that it's not fair that they have to work all their lives. Usually they don't have an option of staying home for a while. They just go to work, week after week, until retirement.

What about the 50-year-old woman who has great-grandchildren? She had children when she was young and then her children and grandchildren



Cape

followed the same pattern of teenage pregnancy and poverty. It's not fair.

What about Jesus? The Bible says he was tempted in all ways as we are yet without sin. He sweated drops of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane as he prayed for God's will. His closest friends denied him. One of his disciples sold out to enable him to be captured by the enemy. He was ridiculed and tortured. Finally he was crucified like a common criminal. Yet he did nothing wrong. Nothing at all! It wasn't fair.

If we could, we would change many of the things that we consider unfair. Jesus actually had that option. He could have called ten thousand angels to take him back to heaven, but he didn't. He willingly suffered the cross to make

salvation available to all people — to me and you. His was the greatest sacrifice.

Sacrifice is not a popular word in today's culture. It's a "me" world: self-fulfillment, self-actualization, and self-expression. We want to have it all.

Most of today's families are too busy! There are so many wonderful opportunities for children. It's hard to believe how many children have schedules that include dancing, gymnastics, and piano every week. No wonder moms feel like taxi drivers! With all that running around, when do they have time for homework, playing, and family time together?

Remember the old saying, "The squeaky wheel gets the oil?" There are lots of "squeaky wheels" around most households. Spilled juice, wrinkled shirts, bills to pay, crying children, a dirty house — the list never ends!

We can be so busy oiling squeaky wheels that we run out of gas! What good are well-oiled wheels if we have a blown engine? Sometimes we have to sacrifice good things for the best things, put aside the "urgent" to focus on the "important."

By his sacrificial death, Jesus finished the task that God had given him to do. To say he made a difference in the world is an understatement. When we come to the end of our lives (which could be today), what significant contributions will we leave behind? Do we follow Jesus' example by living our lives unselfishly in service to God and others? Not many people could answer unequivocally, "Yes!"

"Only one life and it soon shall pass."

Only what's done for Christ will last."

Cape is director of children and family ministry at First Church, Picaune.

LIFE AND WORK

So this is Easter?

1 Corinthians 15:1-20

By Doug Bain

When Pepper Martin was the hero of the World Series for the St. Louis Cardinals, he was asked what was his greatest ambition in life. He replied, "To go to heaven."

The question of the centuries has been that of Job, "If a man die, shall he live again?" People turn in many directions in a desperate search for hope. Often the best evidence, the Resurrection of Jesus, has been neglected.

What is the Resurrection about? It is about substantial hope in answer to the question of Job in our hearts. It is confirmation that everything for which Jesus stood has been vindicated. It is about life being more power-

ful than death.

It is about faith, since Resurrection denies proof, yet when truth in Christ is accepted, a "rising from death" is experienced that points to the final rising from death. It is about the cross, showing that the Crucifixion was part of God's redemptive drama.

It is about the spiritual order in life, that a "raisin' up comes after a dyin' and a buryin'." It is about who is in control of history.

Christian belief says, "Not immortality of the soul, with glory to man's innate nature, but resurrection of the body, with God completely in charge." Resurrection is about Resurrection belief becoming a



Bain

reality for the believer. Rising to new life begins already in this life. "A raisin' up after a dyin' and a buryin'!"

Easter is certainly about salvation (vv. 1-2). Paul began in 7:1 answering questions about which Corinthian believers had written. In pagan context they were concerned about a Christian view of death.

Paul communicates that death is not a termination but a transition. "Passing" does not mark the end but a gate along the way. Part of the Gospel is about what finally happens to believers. The text reminds us of this Gospel, which believers have received and through which we have been saved.

That Good Message finds in Jesus the key to what God has been doing and the way to reconciliation with the Father. The one who "holds firmly" to that Good Message is the one who has sav-

ing faith, resurrection hope, and does not "believe in vain."

Easter is also about faith (vv. 3-8). Paul uses technical terms for telling how he passed on the early Christian *kerygma* (preached message). God acted in historical events, and those with eyes of faith have seen his hand at work.

In the Jesus Event, God acted decisively and supremely for our salvation. God also acted in the early interpreters (including Paul) so that we could see God's hand and know the meaning of what he has done.

In the historical facts of Jesus' death and empty tomb God can open our eyes to see that death is sacrifice for us, and the empty tomb and appearances are evidence that he has been raised!

Further evidence is seen in the very existence of the church itself, and in the New Testament documents, and in the change in the apostles' disposition. The gift of faith is the

"proof" provided the believer.

Easter is indeed about hope (vv. 12-20). If there is no resurrection provision, as some concluded, how could Jesus have been raised? If he is not raised, then everything we have known has been one colossal deception — all the preaching has been in vain and we are without hope.

However, there is absolutely no evidence that God deceives in any way! For the eyes of faith, the evidence is overwhelming. For the "open heart" the deliverance and hope from a rescued life are too real to be a deception!

Jesus' Resurrection is the guarantee of our resurrection, of which we get a taste in this life. Resurrection then is at the heart of the Good Message. God has acted in history to show that one's sins can be forgiven and that death is not the final word. Happy Easter!

Bain is chairman and professor of the Biblical Division at Blue Mountain College.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

The risen Savior's victory

Luke 24:1-6, 39-40, 44-52

By Ken Hester

When England's Wellington faced Napoleon at Waterloo, victory was told by signaling all across the countryside from the coast to downtown London. The first word signaled was "Wellington." The second word signaled was "defeated." Then a fog blanketed the land and the other signals could not be seen. "Wellington defeated" went all over England in great despair. When the fog lifted, the signaling resumed. "Wellington defeated the enemy."

The disciples lived in a fog for one weekend. All was lost. Only after the Resurrection did they finally get the message: Jesus defeated the enemy.

Jesus' resurrection defeated the enemy of disappointment, doubt, dismay, and discouragement. In Luke 24, the resurrected Jesus addressed these enemies.

Jesus is alive for the disappointed (24:1-6). These ladies had their whole world turned inside-out. The death of their Messiah was not what they expected. On this particular Sunday, however, they were in for more of the unexpected.

Since a burial could never take place on a Sabbath or holy day, these ladies waited until Sunday morning to view Jesus. They expected to see the dead, and they expected to service the dead. They brought spices, which were used to help preserve the body of



Hester

a dead person.

Some people today are like these ladies. They come to church expecting to see a dead religious service. While some churches meet those low expectations, other churches are alive with the Spirit of the resurrected Lord.

The angel at Jesus' tomb asked those ladies why they were looking for life in the dead places (24:5). Many people today look for life in all the dead places. They look for life in career, money, illicit sex, and chemical abuse. Those places are avenues of death. For us to find life, we must accept the truth of Jesus. If the avenues of death have left you broken hearted and disappointed, turn to the resurrected Jesus.

Jesus is alive for the doubters (24:39-40). The setting behind these verses is vital to their understanding. Two of Jesus' followers had just spent the day with him on the road to Emmaus.

Once they realized that Jesus was the one talking with them, they went to tell the eleven disciples.

As their report to the eleven was underway, Jesus entered the room. He asked them why they had *dialogismos*, which means doubt, in their hearts. Jesus emphatically told them that he was real using the words, "It is I, myself." He also invited them to check his hands and feet.

Jesus invites us to check and see for ourselves if he really is who he says he is. Two notable authors attempted to disprove the deity of Jesus and ended up being influential followers of our Lord. Those authors are C. S. Lewis and Josh McDowell. Jesus does not fear those doubters who earnestly seek answers to who he is.

Jesus is alive for the dismayed (24:44-49). If we were to put ourselves in the sandals of the disciples, we too might be in shock. Jesus spent time with his disciples to explain to them that the resurrection was all

part of God's plan. Their understanding of the resurrection was important because Jesus had an important task waiting for them. They were to be the ones to proclaim the good news of repentance and remission of sin to the world.

Sometimes this world can throw a curve that leaves us dismayed. Perhaps in those times of shock we too can find understanding and purpose at the feet of Jesus.

Jesus is alive for the discouraged (24:50-52). Jesus' ascent into heaven is a tremendously encouraging event. His bodily resurrection removes the curse of death due to sin from those who believe. His rise into heaven secures for believers an eternity in his presence. For those beaten down and discouraged about the trouble in today's world, the resurrected Jesus provides hope with heaven.

Hester is pastor of Mantee Church, Mantee.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

FEBRUARY 1-28, 1999 MEMORIALS

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Mrs. Annette Thomas Bedwell
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Mr. Harry Childress
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Donna Lovelace, case manager for The Baptist Children's Village, Reedy Acres Campus in Water Valley, was the featured speaker at the February meeting of the Ella Wright Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Circle of First Church, Oxford.

Lovelace discussed the goals of The Baptist Children's Village and emphasized the achievements and needs of the Reedy Acres Campus. Lovelace left materials with WMU members and requested constant prayer for this ministry to children.

Lovelace gave an informative and inspirational presentation and motivated the determined Christian women of the Ella Wright Circle to turn inspiration into action. The women were reminded of the priority Jesus gave to little children.

Join us in prayer for the Reedy Acres Campus of The Baptist Children's Village.

Emily Inmon, president
Ella Wright Circle
First Church, Oxford

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Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold
Killy Harrison
Mr. & Mrs. Roger B. Johnson
Mrs. D.C. (Ella Sue Spikes) Hartley
Dorcas SSC, FBC-Starkville
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Carlisle SSC, FBC-Grenada
Miss Eleanor Drake
Ms. Polly Harlow
Mrs. Sue Tierce
M/M Harry A. Williams & Lula Mae
Berean SSC, FBC-Starkville
R. Berry's Love SSC, Woodville Hg
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Edith Miller
Pat McCrory
Dr. & Mrs. David Lee
John McDonald
Ms. Pennie S. Dempsey
Mrs. Callie McDonald
Ora Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. John McGibbons, Sr.
Todd & Paula Davis
Harvey & Alice Davis
Kim & Jeff Howle
Mr. Loyd McIntire
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Power
Mrs. Mittie McKay
Willie H. Mullins
Linda McMorrough
Lucius, Mavis & Tim Ray
Dwayne McPhail
Glynn & Sarah McIlwain
Bynum Meeks
Mr. & Mrs. Wilber C. Shell
Harry J. Merwin
Mrs. Carole L. Mattox

Making a difference



World Changers from First Church, Ridgeland, took a day during their spring break to assist staff at The Baptist Children's Village in beautifying the India Nunnery campus (pictured left). The students also toured Bailey cottage (see photo, right).

Relief effort may result in 100 new churches

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (BP and local reports)—As many as 100 churches may be started this year because

made professions of faith in Christ, and now Honduran Baptists are working hard to train pastors to lead the new congregations that resulted, Jones said.

Because Mississippi Baptists recently completed a three-year partnership missions relationship with Honduran Baptists, IMB has asked Mississippi Baptists to enter into an additional two-year partnership with Baptists in that country to facilitate relief efforts.

First Church of Lake Charles, La., is helping pay for on-field Bible training for new pastors in Upper Aguan Baptist Association,

seven of them since the hurricane, Jones said. All but one of the 28 pastors is unsalaried, and most are mentoring laymen to pastor congregations being organized in remote communities without any evangelical or even Roman Catholic presence.

School children in the United States have helped with the relief efforts in Honduras.

At East Elementary School in Kings Mountain, N.C., 335 children collected change to help the Elliotts minister in the wake of the hurricane. Of the \$650 they raised, more than \$200 was in pennies.

Amy Dunbar of Wheeling, W.Va., asked friends to bring \$5 donations to her birthday party instead of presents, "since I really did not want anything for myself." With additional contributions from her family, she sent a check for \$70 to help with hurricane relief.

Despite the massive needs for reconstruction, Jones asserts his faith that God is able to meet those needs and that God's people will take advantage of this opportunity to share the love of Christ with people who have

never experienced it.

"We need you to pray as never before that the Lord will provide the necessary funds and volunteers to make this massive reconstruction possible," he said. "Pray that the expressions of love in helping people put their lives back together will result in many coming to know the Lord Jesus Christ and in many more new churches in the coming year."

"We know God is able, and we believe God's people care for their brothers and sisters in this part of the world," he added. "That has already been expressed by the tremendous outpouring of aid from our churches."

"I believe Hurricane Mitch has given us an open door to say to the tens of thousands of unreached people on the last frontiers of Honduras that Jesus is alive in the hearts of his people."

For more information on Honduras relief efforts and other partnership missions opportunities, contact the Partnership Missions Department, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.



DETERMINED TO HELP — Flooding left by Hurricane Mitch may have delayed missionary David Harms (center) from getting relief to hundreds of people who lost their homes in this rural area along the northern coast of Honduras, but the high water didn't stop him completely. As many as 100 churches will be started this year because Southern Baptists responded with compassion after the storm devastated Honduras, Southern Baptist missionaries say. (BP photo by Warren F. Johnson)

Southern Baptists responded with compassion after Hurricane Mitch devastated Honduras last fall, Southern Baptist missionaries in the Central American country say.

Three associations of Baptist churches have seen 19 congregations planted since Mitch killed more than 5,600 people and left more than 200,000 people homeless in late October and early November, reported Sam Jones and Larry Elliott, two career missionaries working in Honduras through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB).

"We are in the midst of one of the most powerful revivals I have ever experienced," said Elliott.

Southern Baptist volunteers are helping IMB missionaries and Honduran Baptists with relief projects that range from road clearing and bridge building to house reconstruction and garden plots. The result has been hundreds of people accepting Christ as Savior and churches being started in isolated communities that previously had no access to good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

The hurricane destroyed roads and bridges all over the country, leaving already isolated communities completely cut off from the outside world. Relief workers had to use mules and burros to pack relief supplies into mountainous regions. Often it took two days or more to reach villages.

Yet wherever the relief supplies went, people

where 28 churches have been started in the past 24 months —

Missions vision drives Costa Rican church

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (BP)—Suely Sirazawa Patricio switches on an overhead projector. At El Bosque Christian Community in San Jose, Costa

Galilee, a body that receives the water of the Jordan River and then sends it on out. We want to be a church that wins souls in Costa Rica but also sends

missionaries to other parts of the world."

"It's been very exciting to see what God, and only God, is doing [through El Bosque]. It's wonderful to be part of his miracles," missionary Dirce Cooper says.

About three years ago, the Coopers and two other IMB missionary couples began meeting weekly to pray about starting work among San Jose's professionals, which has been a sizable, largely unevangelized group.

Later several Latin American Baptists in Costa Rica joined the prayer time. Together they studied about professionals and devised a strategy for reaching them.

Meanwhile, the Brazilian Baptist World Mission Board transferred Cooper's sister and brother-in-law, the Patricios, to Costa Rica. After they arrived, the Brazilian couple joined the prayer team.

A week after holding an outdoor concert featuring a Baptist choir, nearly 80 people attended the first worship service, held in the house where they'd been praying.

Soon the new congregation was praying about finding a bigger place for worship. They located a former supermarket on a visible corner in the neighborhood. Nearly 150 now worship there every Sunday.



WARM GREETING — Roy Cooper (right), from Marion, S.C., welcomes a Costa Rican family as they arrive for worship services at El Bosque Christian Community in San Jose, Costa Rica. Cooper and his wife, Dirce, missionaries of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, helped to plant this new Baptist congregation in an effort to reach San Jose's professionals, a largely unevangelized group. (BP photo by Sandy King)

Baptist church that's barely a year old. But this new congregation already has developed a mature vision for reaching the world for Christ.

Patricio and her husband, Calixto — Brazilian Baptist missionaries — have something to do with that. So do the four other members of El Bosque's pastoral team — IMB missionaries Roy and Dirce Cooper and Barbara Carter and Costa Rican Baptist Rolando Vargas. While leading this congregation from its birth, they've emphasized the church's responsibility in the Great Commission.

"A church without a world missions vision is a church that doesn't have a complete vision of its task," notes Calixto Patricio, who serves with Cooper as co-pastor. "At El Bosque our vision isn't that of the 'Dead Sea' — just receiving, receiving, receiving. Our vision is to be like the 'Sea of

Bibliocipher

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WMF LYJE CJJUVFY XIFJ
FYV BVHQVOF CNL IQ
CXWVHFR, NIZ OJIFXIMV-
FY FYVHVXI, YV WVXIA
IJF N QJHAVEQMC YVN-
HVH, WMF N ZJVH IQ
FYV LJHU, FYXE DNI
EYNCC WV WCVEEVZ XI
YXE ZVVZ.

GNDVE JIV; FLVIFR-QXKV

Clue: C = I
Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: James Four: Seven.